

# Rancho Mirage Historic Resources Inventory

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Associates

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# Rancho Mirage Historic Resources Inventory

Historic Overview

1924 - 1950

# Agricultural & Early Residential Era



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# Agricultural & Early Residential Era



*Open for Inspection*

Model desert home at Rancho Mirage  
designed by Van Pelt & Lind, architects.

1924 - 1950

# Agricultural & Early Residential Era





1924 - 1950

# Agricultural & Early Residential Era



1924 - 1950

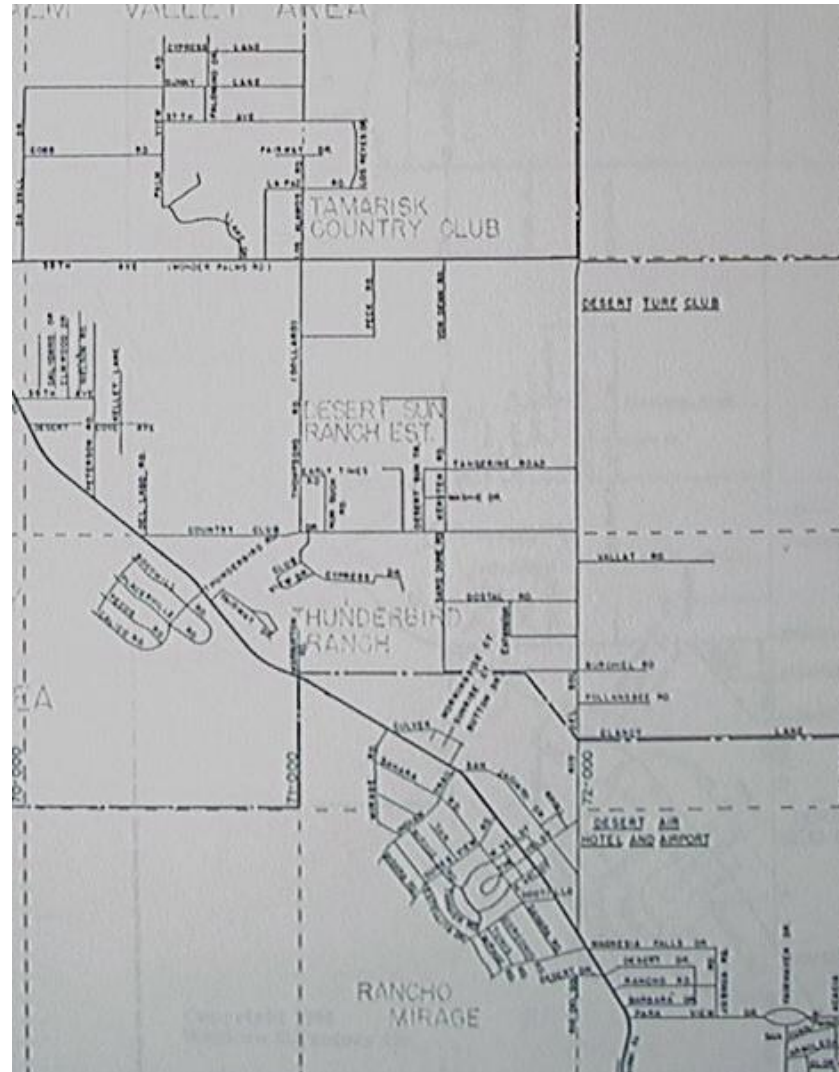
# Agricultural & Early Residential Era





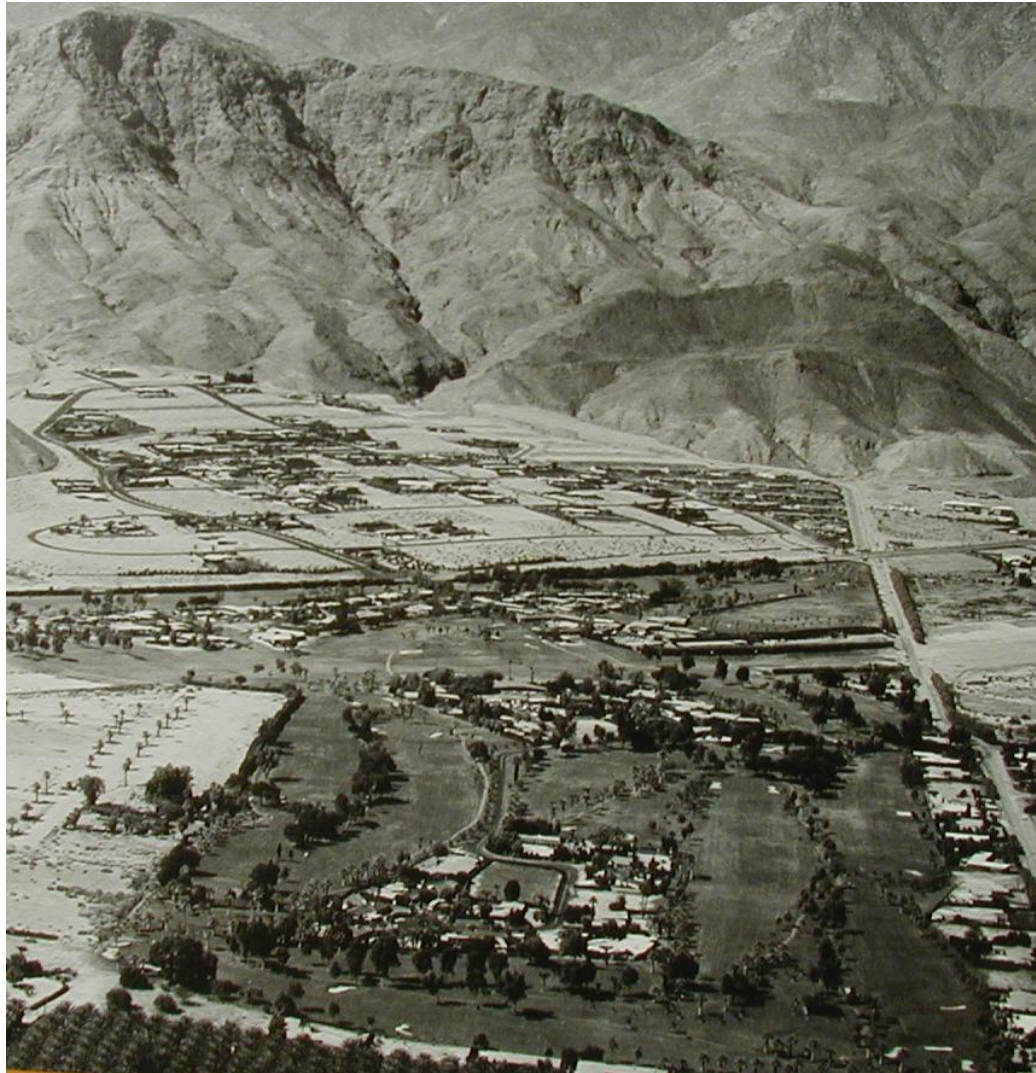
# 1951-1973

## Country Club Era



# 1951-1973

## Country Club Era



# 1951-1973

## Country Club Era





# 1951-1973

## Country Club Era



# 1951-1973

## Country Club Era





# 1951-1973

## Country Club Era





# 1951-1973

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# 1951-1973

## Country Club Era





# 1951-1973

## Country Club Era





# 1951-1973

## Country Club Era



# 1973-Present Cityhood



# 1973-Present Cityhood





# 1973-Present Cityhood



# Rancho Mirage Historic Resources Inventory

Survey Methodology

# Office of Historic Preservation

## Survey Methodology

- Field Survey
- Site Specific Research
- General Research
- Historic Context Statement
- Evaluation of Potential Historical Resources
- Documentation of Historical Resources



# National Register Criteria for Evaluation

50 years of age are eligible if possessing physical integrity (and less than 50 yrs if of exceptional importance), and:

- A. Associated with events making a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history
- B. Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past
- C. Embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or work of a master...

# National Register Status Codes

1. Listed in the National Register
2. Determined eligible for National Register
3. Appears eligible for listing in the National Register
4. Might become eligible for listing
5. Ineligible for National Register but still of local interest
6. None of the above



# National Register Status Codes Utilized in Rancho Mirage Survey

3S. Appears eligible for National Register

4S1. May become eligible when 50 year req't met

4D1. Contributor to Historic District that may become eligible when 50 year req't is met

5D1. Contributor to Historic District not eligible for Nat'l Register, but would be eligible for local designation

# National Register Status Codes Utilized in Rancho Mirage Survey

5S1. Not eligible for Nat'l Register, but would be eligible for designation under local ordinance

5S3. Not eligible for Nat'l Register or for designation under local ordinance, but of some local interest

Note: 3S and 4S assumed eligible for local designation.  
All properties categorized as 5 or higher assumed eligible for California Register



# Rancho Mirage Historic Resources Inventory

Findings

# Important Local Architects who Designed Bldgs in Rancho Mirage

- William Cody  
Jaffe Residence



- E. Stewart Williams  
Kenaston Residence



# Important Local Architects who Designed Bldgs in Rancho Mirage

- Donald Wexler &  
Richard Harrison  
House on Country Club Drive



- Howard Lapham  
Miller Residence





# William Cody FAIA (1916-1978)

- Rancho Mirage's Most Significant Architect
- Pioneer of Desert Modernism
- Designed:
  - Thunderbird and Tamarisk CC Clubhouses
  - Dozens of Custom Homes
- “Among the best of mid-century California designers”



# Important Visiting Architects who Designed Bldgs in Rancho Mirage

- Richard Neutra  
Maslon House, 1962  
Tamarisk CC
- Was the most significant building in Rancho Mirage prior to its demolition



# Important Visiting Architects who Designed Bldgs in Rancho Mirage

- Edward Durrell Stone

Eisenhower Medical Center



- Welton Becket
- McCulloch Residence





# Important Visiting Architects who Designed Bldgs in Rancho Mirage

- William Pereira  
Firestone Estate
- A. Quincy Jones and  
Frederick Emmons  
Annenberg Estate

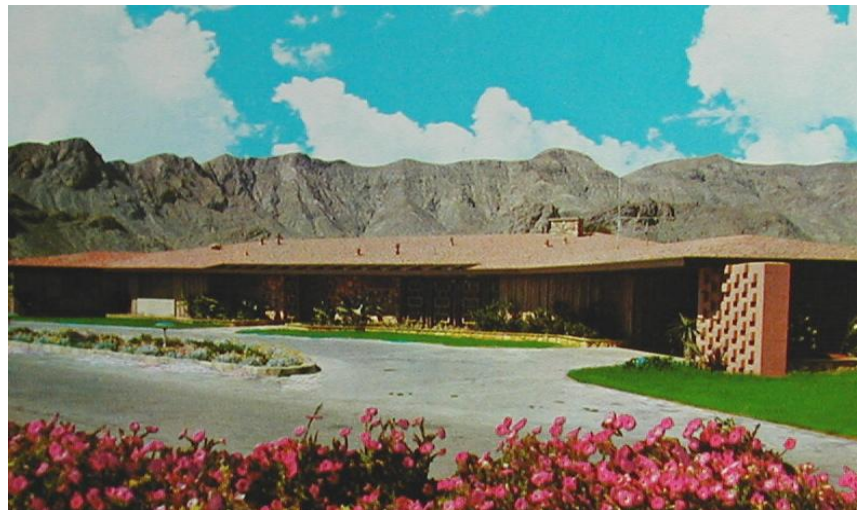


# Important Visiting Architects who Designed Bldgs in Rancho Mirage

- William Krisel and Dan Palmer  
Sandsu Circle House



- Paul Williams  
Lucille Ball/Desi Arnaz Residence



# Celebrities in Rancho Mirage

- Frank Sinatra



- Bing Crosby





# Celebrities in Rancho Mirage

- Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz



- Hoagy Carmichael



# Properties That Appear Eligible for Listing in The National Register of Historic Places

Highlights

# National Register Eligible

- Casa Chiquita
- 1934
- Architect: Unk.
- Follansbee Rd.
- Last orig ranch house/date farm in Rancho Mirage
- One of two oldest houses in city





# National Register Eligible

- 71-785 Sahara Road
- 1937
- Architects: Van Pelt & Lind (John Porter Clark)
- Louis Blankenhorn Tract in Magnesia Falls
- Historically significant as earliest tract development in RM



# National Register Eligible

- Jorgensen Residence
- 1955
- Architect: William Cody
- Thunderbird CC
- One of Cody's most important Desert Modern houses
- In original condition





# National Register Eligible

- McCulloch Residence
- 1955
- Architect: Welton Becket
- Thunderbird CC
- Life Magazine's Push-Button House of the Future
- Site-specific art



# National Register Eligible

- Kenaston Residence
- 1957
- Architect: E. Stewart Williams
- Desert Sun Dr.
- Desert Modern
- Best remaining Williams House in RM





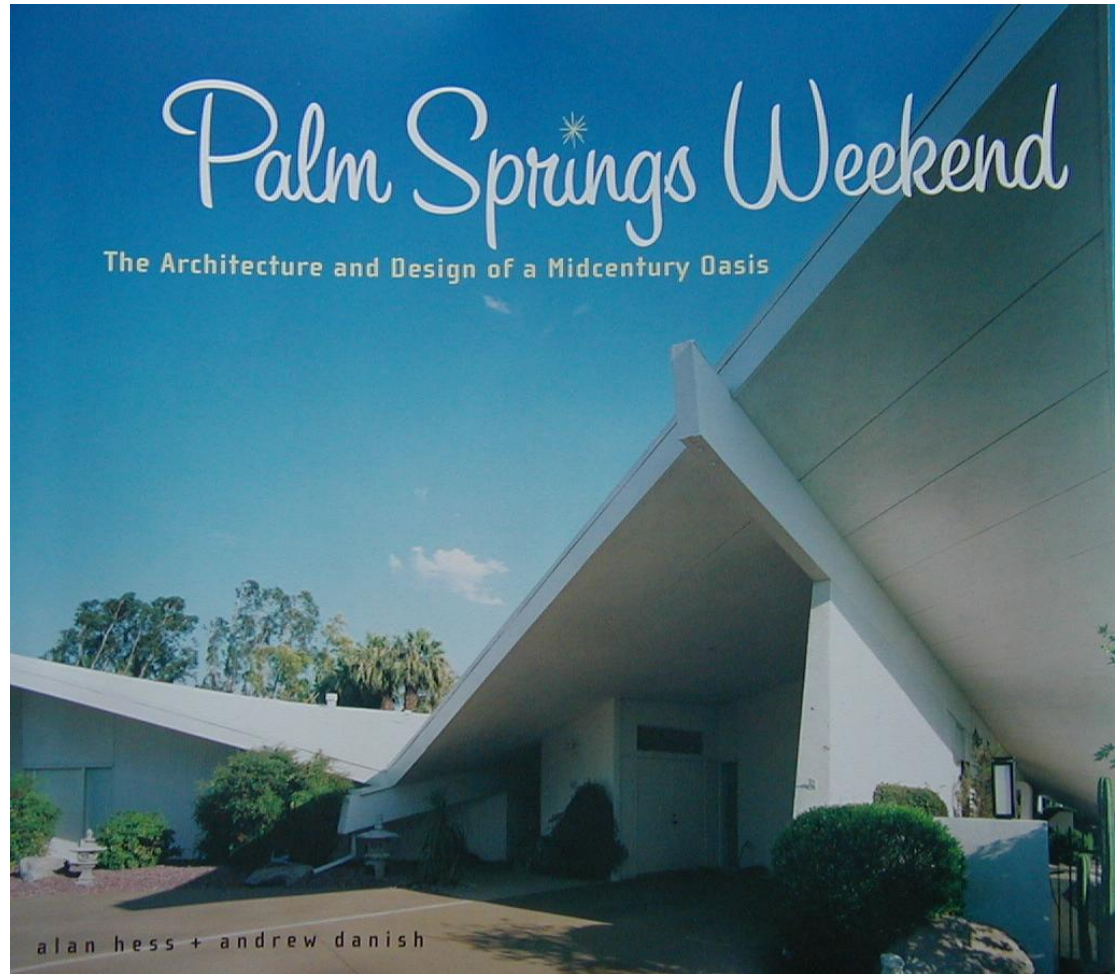
# National Register Eligible

- Firestone Residence
- 1958
- Architect: William Pereira
- Thunderbird CC
- International Style Modern
- Original condition



# National Register Eligible

- Maranz Residence
- 1960
- Architect: Val  
Powelson
- Tamarisk CC
- Three-pointed roof  
is unique in RM
- Optimistic, space-  
age design



# National Register Eligible

- Sunnylands
- 1963
- Architect: A. Quincy Jones and Frederick Emmons
- Monumental Modern bldg
- Importance of Annenbergs to RM





# National Register Eligible

- Jaffe Residence
- 1963
- Architect: William Cody
- Tamarisk CC
- Desert Modern
- Orig owner, orig condition



# Tamarisk Fairway on 10th Historic District

- 1969-1970 (eligible when 50 yrs old)
- 8 Cooperative Single Family Residences
- Architect: Wm Cody
- Communal grounds and pool area
- Desert Modern
- Excellent example of type
- Cody's only Coop SFR





# National Register Eligible

- Chart House
- 1978
- Architect:  
Kendrick Kellogg
- Highway 111
- Organic Modern  
(grows out of  
hill)
- One-of-a-kind  
and Kellogg's  
only Coachella  
Valley bldg





# Properties That Appear Eligible for Listing Under a Local Preservation Ordinance

Highlights

# Eligible for Local Listing

- Nittinger Residence
- 1934
- Architect: Unk
- Clancy Lane
- Bd-Batten & Natural Rock
- One of two oldest houses in city
- Pioneer Residents



# Eligible for Local Listing

- Clancy Residence
- 1938
- Architect: Unk
- Clancy Lane
- Ranch to Modern Transitional
- Excellent example of architectural type seen in RM
- Pioneer family





# Eligible for Local Listing

- Frank Morgan Residence
- 1939
- Architect: Unk
- Magnesia Falls
- Spanish Rustic
- First residence owned by a celebrity



# Tamarisk Ranchos Historic District

- 1958
- 16 Cooperative Single Family Residences
- Plans by William Krisel for Lou Halper
- Modern
- Communal grounds and pool area
- Tamarisk CC Social Connection
- Good example of type
- Original and in excellent condition





# Eligible for Local Listing

- Fire Station #1
- 1975
- Architect: Richard Ricciardi
- Highway 111
- Modern
- Architecturally harmonious and dynamic
- Oldest unaltered civic bldg in RM





# Eligible for Local Listing

- Frank Sinatra Compound
- 1957-1998
- Architects: Various
- Home of an important, generous local celebrity and philanthropist



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